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**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP00/08435 filed August 30, 2000**

REMARKS

Claims 8-17 are currently pending in the instant application.

The Specification has been amended to delete the original section headings and to insert the preferred section headings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.77. A new Title of the Invention has been inserted. An Abstract of the Disclosure, in accordance with the disclosure, has been added. It is submitted that the amendments to the Specification made herein introduce no new matter. All of the amendments to the Specification constitute deletions of original section headings and/or paragraphs, and insertions or additions of new section headings and/or paragraphs. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii), no separate page captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" is necessary. A separate page containing a clean copy of the Abstract of the Disclosure has been attached for the Examiner's convenience. Entry of the amendments to the Specification made herein are therefore proper and respectfully requested.

Original claims 1-7 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 8-17 solely for the purpose of improving clarity and grammar, which may suffer in translation, and not for any reason which relates to the statutory requirements for a patent. New claims 8-17 have not been added in response to any rejection, nor in anticipation of any rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the scope of new claims 8-17 generally corresponds to the scope of original claims 1-7, and that new claims 8-17 are no narrower than original claims 1-7. Furthermore, although a moot point in view of their cancellation, Applicants respectfully submit that original claims 1-7 satisfied the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, as filed. New claims 8-17 are supported by the claims as originally filed and in the Specification, for example, at page 3, line 19, through page 4, line 3; at page 6, lines 10-17; and in the Examples. No new matter has been introduced. All of the amendments to the Claims constitute cancellation of original claims and the addition of new claims. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii), no separate page captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" is necessary. Entry is therefore proper and respectfully requested.

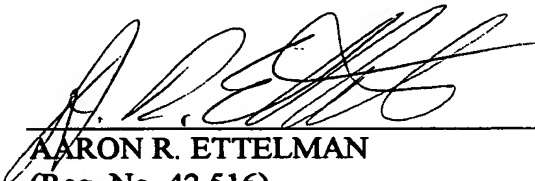
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Prompt examination of the instant application in view of the amendments made
herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTINE GAERTNER, et al.

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(Date)



AARON R. ETTELMAN
(Reg. No. 42,516)
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone: (610) 278-4930
Facsimile: (610) 278-4971
E-Mail: AARON.ETTELMAN@HENKEL-AMERICAS.COM

Cognis Corporation, Patent Dept.
2500 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 200
Gulph Mills, PA 19406

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